



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 40679/1420

*FLA*  
*B-203*  
*FF 8*

In re patent application of

Akira KONDOU, et al.

Serial No.: 10/023,795

Group Art Unit: 3616

Filed: December 21, 2001

Examiner: F. M. Fleming

**For: Steering Shaft for Energy Absorbing Steering Column  
and Manufacturing Method Thereof**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-4, 8, 10 and 11, for prosecution in the subject application.

Upon allowance of the elected claims, Applicants will be permitted to request rejoinder in accordance with MPEP 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995) of method claims 5-7, 9, 12 and 13.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 28, 2003  
FOLEY & LARDNER  
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